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A summer of racing

Island kids have fun competing in youth regattas

BY DAVID TILLEY

It’s a blustery July afternoon in the waters off of the Turtlehen Evergreen Improvement Association. There’s a strong wind and choppy seas, but that doesn’t deter the sailors in the two 420-class sailboats who are navigating the triangular course.

The young people are completely confident, sailing quickly from one side of the boat to another as they come about and point the boat in a different direction. When quick gusts of wind pop up they rapidly climb onto the side of the boat to keep it from capsizing. As members of the TETA 420 Racing Team, they’re an experienced group, most have sailed for at least five years.

Team coach Liz Rollins stands on the transom in front of the center console in the association’s 16-foot launch, shouting instructions to her team. “Keep thoseails in your face, let’s get ‘er!”

Rollins, who wears khaki shorts, a blue T-shirt and a masonite life-jacket with a whistle attached to it, laughs and says women if they can bear it. Her shouted instructions to the grownups are precise but always upbeat, and interlaced with praise.

She’s been the association’s director of sailing and the 420 Racing Team coach for the past three years. She and her husband, Kevin, who is the associations manager, live in Somerville cottage for the summer. In the winter, she teaches music and theater at a middle school in Aurora.

The boat that just sailed by is skippered by Cooper Hoffmann and co-captain by Nathaniel Walder. They are part of the 420 racing team, along with Berry Dunn, Shelbie Flynn, Jean Gufler, Wesley Narram and Vermont Meying.

The TETA Optimist Racing Teams is coached by Maggie Dunn and Liz Gufler, and includes Hugh Carroll, Daniel Hopfstaedter, Connor Blym, Dexter Morris, Marlan and Taylor Norton and Max Play.

The Optimist is a nine-foot class sailboat designed for the summer of racing.

Kids racing Optimist-class sailboats off Peaks Island. The Turtlehen Evergreen Improvement Association hosted the summer’s first regatta of the Maine InterClub Racing Circuit, which includes teams all over Maine.

Lucille Littlejohn dresses her goose—there are two in this photo, a mama and baby—in different outfits everyday.

Recognize this goose?

BY MARY LO WENDSELL

“Some people think they are ducks,” says Lucille Littlejohn as she sits at her kitchen table in a beautiful house with fabulous water views on Island Avenue. “But they’re not. They’re geese.”

She is referring to the two concrete geese—two are the mother and the smaller one is the baby—that have adorned the street side of her yard on Peaks Island for the last eight years. Littlejohn dresses them each day over the summer in a different outfit, sometimes disguising them as everything from dogs and flamingos to Elvis Presley.

Many islanders have noticed them and got a kick out of seeing them everyday to see what they might be wearing, including the kids from the Island Daycare, the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop. The kids even named the geese. Littlejohn says the Rosemary is and the little one is Baby. They encountered no resistance to the humor movie please see GOOSE, page 12.

Kids sailing during the spring. Photo by Todd Alcott.

Art flourishes on Peaks Island

Renee Bouchard has been involved in two new art projects on Peaks Island this summer. She worked with Susan Juli Ash- ley, Jane Nuckolls, and Tim Nielson who did the flowers on the art weekend.

The TETA 420 Racing Teams is coached by Maggie Dunn and Liz Gufler, and includes Hugh Carroll, Daniel Hopfstaedter, Connor Blym, Dexter Morris, Marlan and Taylor Norton and Max Play.

The Optimist is a nine-foot class sailboat designed for the summer of racing.

When did you, Wietseke and Ashley first get the idea to start Smack Art Camp?

Diane asked us to organize it with her this winter in January. How are kids enjoying the camp?

This art camp could be one of the best experiences of their lives. What is the camp’s philosophy when it comes to teaching kids art? Do you have to struggle with preconceived ideas that children may have about self-expression and art?

I love teaching art to kids because most kids do not have preconceived ideas about self-expression and art. It is a language that many adults don’t understand and that can be learned at an early age.

How did you get the idea for the art workshop?

The art workshop was conceived of after the Loveboat Salon at Valentine Art Show in my studio. Diane asked me to invite artists friends to show their work with me in my studio. It was testing the Humberl lawn, twenty artists or more wanted to participate. We were packed in. This group of artists wanted to come together and organize. Diane Nielson has taken the ball and runs with it. She got the director and made it. The art workshop is in the yard. Did it take a lot of effort?

Artists are choralized, private, and always last minute including myself. To be organized is not in my nature. Yes, it took a lot of effort to organize it. Who helped organize it?

Linda Nielson to let the flyer and maps take over his life for a few weeks. He is so generous, efficient. Could you describe the event?

Our first art walk kicked off the Peaks Island art district and that Mark Shain designed called “Peaks Island, Maine: A Directory of Visual Creatives” and Peaks

A summer of racing

East End boat ramp safe for now

BY DAVID TILLEY

The commercial boat ramp on the East End Beach, a critical transportation link for Portland’s islands, now as dangerous as it was to believe. According to Vic Willeke, the consultant working with the eastern Pointy, the Master Plan Committee to come up with a plan for the future of the 90-acre park.

At a July 21 public hearing on the master plan, the issue of the boat ramp was the major topic of discussion, although many attendees had concerns and they want it moved, citing the need to the construction of heavy trucks as a problem for the park and the neighborhood.

Objections to the commercial boat ramp were voiced last October, before the master plan began meeting. And those concerns have surfaced in meetings of the 36-member master plan committee, which was established in January. The committee’s next public hearing is at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25 in the rehearsal hall at Merrill Auditorium in City Hall.

At the July 21 hearing, George Fields, who lives in the Portland Heights, said it is the noise of the trucks that bothers him. “I’m going to the meeting where they make their decision.”

Illustration by Todd Alcott.

Inside

Briefs
Police log
This Island Life
Crossword puzzle
Star Gazing
A Taste of Peaks

p. 3
p. 5
p. 13
p. 15


eastendboatramp

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Peaks Island - Week of Sept. 8

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In Brief

Playground updated
A new one was recently installed on the new playground next to the Peaks Island School, but whether the concep is that which would include a platform area and slide, will be installed remains uncertain.

Members of the committee that helped design the new playground requested the climbing piece, intended for use by young children as well as older kids, but were disappointed when they were told in recent months that there may not be enough money to the budget to cover it. Several smaller pieces of equipment had been purchased and installed before the committee made a final decision on the centerpiece.

The money set aside for the playground, about $305,000, comes from the federal Housing and Community Development block grant program. About $60,000 of that was spent on grading, landscaping and equipment installation. The rest was spent on equipment.

Phil Labbe, who is in charge of the playground installation for the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, which owns the playground, said last month that there may not be enough money for the platform piece. He has since added up the expenses for the project and now says there is about $5,000 available for the final piece of equipment, which is about $2,500 less than the committee was planning to spend.

Labbe said that the piece of equipment and all its attachments initially requested would have been too big for the space set aside for the playground, so now the group is looking at a smaller version of the same piece that would cost about $5,000.

The only problem is Labbe has concerns about it because it doesn’t anchor to the ground in any way. He is waiting for the company that makes the climbing equipment, Cedarworks, to get back in to him with a local location of a similar climbing set so that he can inspect the equipment to make sure it can be pushed over, Labbe said. But Labbe is about to go on vacation, so the inspection may be held up for at least another week.

When asked whether the piece will ever be installed, Labbe said: “I’m not going to say we can do it, but we have that money left over and will do what we can do.”

Zoning changes proposed
Several proposed zoning changes proposed by the I-2 Island Residential Zone will be discussed at the annual meeting of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association.

CIBIT deadlines
Elections for the Board of Directors for the Casco Bay Island Transit District will be held on Nov. 4. However, nomination papers must be turned in to the Casco Bay Lines Terminal no later than 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 29. Each director serves for a three-year term.

There are four seats up for election as well as the remaining one-year term of former Peaks Island resident Ted Bradeen. Other board members who serve terms expire in November include: Peaks Island Director Ron Shaw, Board President; Campobello Island Director Linda Pickup; and Machias Islands Director Jim Phipps. A candidate must live on or own property on the island they wish to represent. Those running for at-large seats must be residents of the state.

Punch passes in
Punch passes for the Peaks Island Transfer Station are now available. The non-transferable punch passes are issued to island residents to allow disposal of bulky items at the transfer station. Last year, the passes were issued at the beginning of July; this year the passes were delayed until the end of July.

In addition, the Curbside Bulk Item Collection Program will be held the week of Sept. 8. For questions about the transfer station call 766-2423.

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The support of advertisers has been invaluable, but this is a community paper, and we require the support of everyone in the community in order to give you outstanding local news, features and photos. A major way you can help us is through subscription. A subscription is not just a way to have the Island Times delivered to your door every Thursday. It is also an important way for you to say you believe in what we're doing and that you want to help us continue to provide local news and information that you just can't get from any other source in town.

In just one year we've had over 60 subscribers sign up, and we'd like to thank all of you. But our funding needs have not yet been met, and we're not sending in the forms closed in this month's newsletter, and every subscription is important to us, as we work to make the Island Times the best community newspaper this county has ever had. Our support will allow us to continue to grow and improve as we enter our second year of publication.

Mary Lou Wendell, David Tyler

Pothole of the month

Just when you thought your own potholes were bad! Here's a series of three that would knock even the stoutest of hubcaps for a loop.

Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

This month, the Island Times continues its new feature, Potholes of the Month. If you have a photo of a pothole that you think might have some quality please email it in at islandtimesmaine.com. In the meantime, drive carefully.

August's potholes: On Wiley Ave, the entire area is covered with potholes, but this series of three inches is the worst.

ART, page 1, and we created two new blocks so that artists have an opportunity to visit each other's spaces.

What was the public's response to the most recent art walk? The artists' response?

During the first night of Peaks First it was wonderful to see people's spirits lifted because of art. The first walk was popular. To many Islanders who wandered, I think people were happily surprised with the invitation to visit an art world. I really see it as an educational piece in that it brings awareness of Island artists to the surface. It became the open opportunity for people to learn about artists and their process.

Many artists sold some of their work and others like myself were not surprised in selling anything. Mostly, it gave artists the chance to talk.

Has the art walk helped to draw together Island artists, artists who may not have known each other that well before this was organized?

I talked to Victor Romansky on the phone several times while facilitating the walk. I finally got to meet him last weekend. Do you find that Islanders are becoming more aware of the wealth of artistic talent through the art walks?

I think the art wander directly brings attention to the abundant interest in art on Peaks Island.

When will the last art wander of this year be held?

We are planning another the last Saturday of August then maybe one in the Fall, Winter and Spring. I am going somewhere else the chance to organize it next. I am exhausted and will be in Europe. I would like to see the art wander held four times a year, seasonally.

Are there any other projects that might spring from the art wander?

We hold a reading at the Cocked Gull off of art for the Walker Cup.

What is it about Peaks that nurtures so much artistic talent?

Speaking for myself, as an artist, living on an island offers me solitude, no privacy, and surrounds me with water.

ISLAND TIMES

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The Island Times is a community newspaper covering Peaks Island and issues affecting Casco Bay that come out 12 times a year. We welcome birth, engagement and wedding announcements, obituaries of community events, letters and advertising. Your support is important to keep the Island Times going. Letters of 150 words are welcomed. E-mail letters to islandtimesmaine.com. For advertising, please call Melissa Conrad at 786-9718.

Page 4

ISLAND TIMES

August 2003

Island Views

Letters to the editor

Thanks for helping out

My family and I discovered the magic of Peaks Island 25 years ago, and have returned every summer since then to share in the island's many wonders. Each year we have seen changes that reflect the incredible growth of this island and the changes the people and businesses have undergone.

It is the incredible friendliness of Island residents for two hours to our once again, this year when my husband had an unexpected hospital stay.

Within weeks of his accident, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Butler and his sister-in-law, Sue, were on the scene with a load of ice and a ride to emergency help. They also looked after our bikes and paramedical while we were at the hospital. Other Islanders, like Richardson offered further assistance - first aid, a ride to the back shop cottage and Kerry. Everyone's help was most appreciated accommodating, and much appreciated.

Per a special shout-out to many wonderful, but its islanders are its greatest treasure. We look forward, as always, to next year.

And my husband's doctor -

Dana Fitchett, Livingston, Maine

Fallen Dafa persecution

On Saturday, July 19, Falun Dafa practitioners from around the world held "The Light and Peace Concert" at the reflecting pool on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to begin a five-day world conference. The focus was to introduce the public to the positive aspects of Falun Dafa, and to inform people about the persecution campaign waged by the Chinese government against Falun Dafa worldwide.

I was invited to perform with singer song-writer Marcus Gale of North Berwick, Maine. Marcus is well known for his reformed several of musical, original compositions that told the stories of the persecution against Falun Dafa.

Falun Dafa known as Falun Gong is an ancient Chinese practice based on the universal principals of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance. The practice consists of a system of gentle exercises and meditation to achieve and improve the body, mind and spirit. The practice was introduced to the public in China in 1992, and grew to be the most widespread system of "Qi Gong" (meditation practice) in the world, with over 100 million people practicing.

The conference on July 20, 1999, Bao Zeming, the president of China began a public and systematic attack on Falun Gong, and brutal suppression of Falun Dafa on a large scale. This brutal crackdown on the practitioners of Falun Da- 

fa led deceased citizens of their basic human rights of freedom of belief, assembly and expression. At the beginning of this genocide campaign Falun Gong leaders "eliminated Falun Dafa in three months."

Four years later Falun Dafa is freely practised by millions around the world. As a result the Chinese government has expanded the scope of this persecution internationally.

The Chinese government has provided European and Asian countries with black lists preventing American citizens from even travelling to various European and Asian countries. Also, practitioners in the United States and Canada have been threatened, attacked and harassed while meditating in parks and public places. Government officials have been harassed and threatened by Chinese Consulates for supporting Falun Dafa activities in large and small communities throughout the United States.

The persecution of Falun Gong has resulted in seven countries around the world suing the former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and various government officials who have a history of human rights violations and crimes.

The purpose of this escalating situation, the State of Maine on June 14, unanimously passed a Joint Resolution, supporting Falun Dafa, and condoning the Chinese government's persecution of Falun Dafa.

Tara Brown

Film volunteers sought

Who makes children and feature films available as the Peaks Island Community Center every Saturday night throughout the year? The answer is the Peaks Island Film Academy (PIFA), a committee of the Friends of the Peaks Island Library.

The academy is a small, dedicated group of volunteers who work together to make sure that the Peaks Island community can enjoy "Saturday Night at the Movies." Our committee is currently in a season of transition as a number of members stepped down. On behalf of the academy's other volunteers, I want to express my sincere thanks to the following individuals for their valuable contributions to an important community institution: Dina and Todd Smith, Lila and James Gagne, and many others, who have contributed to the academy by Sam Killett and Audre. I wish sometime back. Thank you very much, members past and present, for your service and for the pleasure of working with you.

To keep up with its current schedule of showing films each Saturday, the academy needs your help. "Volunteers are very much valued, necessary to expand its reach with additional support," said the president.

To participate, please call Charles Fendors, PIFA Coordinator at 786-2022 for details.

Charlie Ewoldt

Pothole watchers: Matthias Daligan and six-month-old Devon

Pothole shots: At 11 feet in total, about 11 feet wide at its worst point and one foot deep. Damage to vehicles: Burned alignment. Quotes When Daligan complained to the city about her potholes, "they told me it was on the list."
This island life

BY GEORGE BOSOL

Peaks Island in July becomes Turkish bazaar. Army-Navy store, and Manten's wrapped in one package. Front yard tables and lawn stress with stuff. I took some time on a Saturday morning hoping to discover one thing that could be of worldly use to me. I found two.

Somewhere in the vicinity of Snake Alleys, I remember seeing white hair in a non-do and a pale heavy face. A woman, was cheap. The tail and stately long nose. I can almost pick out many a detail, but it was the sequence was as I read. The book that I'm reading.

One of the bills was dropped, the other distant in the other hand. There were few pictures, but there was a chat. I should have been before I decided to go to the watch. It was determined to go to the watch when I came to Peaks Island. It was my aim to return to those wonderful days in my still town where life flourished without the novel of a timepiece. Wrist and pocket watches were ornamental. Only to be worn to church or a dance or a trip to Edinburgh. We relied on factory wheels another on our watches. We were all placed differently and blew at different times. And they sounded day and night, every day of the year. Steam trains blown in the New Year in a glorious discordant union. Our earliest musical training came from this institutionalized callope sounding thirty times a day. And now there is a chorus. The hearts of our lives on Peaks can be reckoned in much the same way. And with good enough precision. Looking at our options. There are the ferry boats, the deep moon of the Scotia Prince coming and going, the screaming of kids being let out to play. Amazingly on schedule. The roof of the Monday morning garbage truck gives a time check within. Give or take, an hour or twice a week is all you need. Mail delivery with similar accuracy. Sun dial, of course, and sunny daytime shadows, moon ratings and evenings, and the overly hot precise coming and going of folks with dog days. Stargazing and chair work. The school is born to the minute, with a double blast a minute later if the kid doodles.

I received a scrawled message from a Mr. Coyote who is recuperating from an encounter with a garbage mark. The spelling of his name is Win Le Coyote, not Wiley Coyote as reported in this column last month. The note confirms the wide and eclectic reader's base of the Island Times.

Don't burn your buses this summer. We've got natural sun screen for your lips, legs, etc. not to mention burns. And if you get too toasted, try our South sun products.

Rained out? How about recycled stationary and cards to send to the folks back home?

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TEA 420 Racing Team member Wesley Norton skippers a 420-class sailboat as crew member Jean Gugliver hikes out.

SAILING, from page 1
A long dinghy, with a single sail, designed for one person to sail. The 420 is nearly 14-feet long, with a mainsail, jib and a spinnaker. Designed for two people to sail and is one of the most popular boats for college racing. Overall, there are 47 kids, ages 10 to 11, sailing Optimist type boats in the sailing program and between 20 and 30 young people, ages 11 to 16, sailing 420s. There are sailing classes for each type of boat. There is an upper level 420 class that takes trips to nearby islands sailed the cruising class and there are the racing teams.

Although nearly every yacht club in Maine offers sailing lessons, just 14 clubs take part in the Maine InterClub Racing Circuits. For the past three years, the TEA sailing program has taken part in this circuit, sending its teams to other yacht clubs up and down the coast.

The regattas are held on Wednesdays, from July through the second week of August, and are hosted at a different yacht club each week. Members of the 420 and Optimist team will also compete in the North Eastern Jr. Olympics, held at the Portland Harbour Yacht Club from July 28-30, and the 1987 Optimist team race in the Optimist New England Championships, held at the East End Beach in Portland from July 30-Aug. 1.

The TEA team hosted the first season's regatta on July 2. They were travellled to and Christmas Cove for races. But these young people are not on the racing team to become future Olympians; they're doing it because it's fun.

"I love sailing on the racing team," said Jean Gugliver. "It's so exciting to meet people from different clubs." And the racing team has just the right practices schedule for an enjoyable season. The teams practice on Mondays and Thursdays for the Wednesday regattas. "We have so much fun. It's basic-al-ly the right amount of sailing," said Gugliver. "Because some clubs go out every day, all the time." Despite not practicing every day, the team militants the 420 trophy. For the first year, the TEA racing team finished third in the Maine InterClub Racing Circuit. The teams practice schedule is dic-Table: SAILING

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The teams practice schedule is dictated by the hands of the association covers (2 420s and 12 Optimists) and fitting kids into a schedule with three instructors. In addition to coaching the racing team, Rota-ten teaches all 420 classes.

"Like many on the 420 team, Gugliver started out racing Optimists. Cooper Hoffman sailed an Optimist for four years, before switching this summer to 420. Wesley Norton has been sailing for eight years, learning with his family. He enjoys the racing team "because we have so much fun up and down the coast. Last year we had a lot of new places."

After the workout, the young people gather

Shelbie Flynn shows off her skill using trapeze, as Nathanbal Walden skippers the 420-class sailboat.

Photo by Liz Rollins

...
Surf and turf Peaks Island style  

Hundreds of people were swimming and running on Peaks Island on July 26 for the 2003 Peaks Island Road Race and the Peaks to Portland Swim, sponsored by the Portland YMCA.
Ellen Mahoney and Lois Tiedeken of Peaks Island get ready for the Peaks to Portland Swim Race recently.

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- Mary Lea Wendell, David Tyler

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City committee debates future of boat ramp

HAMP; from page 1

eastly, we can't be out there half the time, or
out in the front yard," he said. "I think that feeds into the whole boat ramp issue." 

Jean McNamara, a Munjoy Hill resident, said that in 1874 the State Legislature passed a bill dedicating the park for recreational uses only and the City Council passed an ordinance stating there should be no commercial activity in the park. "The city, over the next few months, should make it the highest priority to have an alternative site," McNamara said. "It's not appropriate by state law and it's not appropriate by city ordinance."

But several residents of Peaks Island were at the hearing and spoke in defense of the boat ramp, which they described as a lifeline for the islands. "I know in other neighbor-

hoods in the city, there are roads; for the islands, the road is across the water," said Charles Enders, president of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association. "Our access to a road is very, very important," he said. "I want to underscore our dependence on the island."

Dan Springer, a Peaks Island resident, said that in the past 20 years, Peaks Island has been added to the National Register of Historic Places and there is a "new appreciation for our island." He said the future of Peaks Island is "inextricably linked to the future of Peaks Island Public Park." 

The question of commercial traffic at the East End Beach, which also has a ramp for recreational boats, is just one of several issues facing the master plan committee. Other issues include cutting unwanted vegetation, concerns about off-leash walking of dogs, problems with parking and creating new walkways in the park, which was first laid out in 1836. 

The lack of attention paid to the boat ramp at the July 21 hearing was encouraging for island resident Chris Hoppin, who is a member of the committee. "If you put a dock to it, I don't think it is the dominant issue; it was one of many issues," he said. 

Hoppin said it's important to accurately describe the use of the boat ramp. "It's really recreational, commercial and governmental," he said. "The government is the major user of the boat ramp, we should never forget that." 

Hoppin is also on a subcommittee charged with examining the issue of the commercial boat ramp. Other members of the subcommittee include Dan Haley, Will Gorham, Gary Marciano and Denise Albert.

Virtually everything carried on large trucks for the islands is transported on trucks which are picked up by ferries at the East End boat ramp, including gravel, fuel, lumber and trash.

But Munjoy Hill residents have complained that the heavy trucks are a nuisance and a safety hazard for the neighborhood. That's not the impression Hoppin has received. Walker is a landscape architect at Walker-Kraus Design Group in Boston.

At the hearing, the issue of trucks in the park was not a major issue. "Commercial trucks aren't a big issue," Walker said. While it might be better if the trucks were not in the parks, "it is no solution to remove them," he said.

The problem, Walker said, is the use of the lower parking lot on winner Street as a staging area for the boat ramp. He said he was at this parking lot in early July and there were 10 or 11 commercial vehicles in the lot and a big pile of dirt. "Is this the kind of activity that should be occurring on a daily basis in the public park?" Walker asked. The lot is used as a staging area by the city's Department of Public Works, for the most part, and by private commercial companies, he said.

Hoppin said that the parking lot is not automated by the DPW. In the winter, the city Department of Public Works uses the lower parking lot for residents who need to park their cars off city streets due to snow bans.

Despite concerns about the Cutter Street parking lot, Walker said other options would have to be explored before closing the ramp to commercial traffic. "We know there's not going to be a recommendation to make a change unless there is a suitable alternative," and that hasn't been made known to yet, Walker said.

George Campbell, a former city councilor who is on the翻开 committee, echoed Walker's point about closing the boat ramp to commercial traffic. "I thought we felt that this is tossed out without an answer," he said.

A major obstacle to moving the commercial boat ramp from East End Beach to an

other part of the city is the lack of a staging area in other locations.

The issue of including a staging area for the commercial boat ramp is essential. A proposed alternative site for the boat ramp is Ocean Gateway. "While Ocean Gateway may have a viable water-side solution, it does not seem to have a viable land-side solution," Hoppin said. "It is almost impossible to find a land-side area for materials for materials.

And rather than characterize the debate over the boat ramp, and it's impact on the park, Walker said, "I think this is how the billboards on Munjoy Hill residents." 

Coley Mulken directs trucks carrying recycled asphalt last fall for the Department of Public Works onto the ferry owned by Lionel Plante Associates at East End Beach.

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ISLAND TIMES

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Big game hunting on the back shore

BY LORALEE JOHNSON

The back shore was surrounded by barbed wire to keep us out. But it didn’t make any difference. When the coast was clear—meaning we didn’t see the police jeep at Jack Fuller’s, the caretaker—we’d crawl through and head to Trout Pond for a “Wild Game Safari.”

Our crew was a long beach towel, our props, the snapping turtles that inhabited Trout Pond. We’d initiate the hunt by lowering our towels into the pond. The turtles would “snap” at the end and we’d quickly haul them out of the water. Then, we’d flip them onto their backs and tickle their tummies to put them to sleep.

After a while, we’d turn them back over. Then we’d entice them to bite the towel again so we could lower them back into the pond. Maybe the thrill was trying not to get caught, or subduing a wild beast. Anyway, it was a July custom, one of those “kid things,” we did.

One time I got caught on the barbed wire; by the time my Mom got home, my back had been flushed with peroxide, painted with mercurochrome, and bandaged with shortening and adhesive tape.

Years later when I was wearing an elegant evening gown, someone commented on my scar. I explained that I had gotten caught on barbed wire on the Army reservation. But you can bet I didn’t mention the part about “Big Game Hunting” in Trout Pond.

Loralee Johnson was born on Peaks Island in 1943. She left the island in 1965 when she got married and has since returned and now lives here year-round.

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Island police log

July 1: Accident: Police Department only, no address given.

July 2: Property found, Brackett Avenue.

July 3: EMS service run, no address.

July 4: Parking complaint, Island Avenue: special detail, no address; serving paperwork, Island Avenue: Persons bothering, no address; EMS call, breathing problems.

Brackett Avenue, EMS call still, no address; EMS call, still no address.

July 5: Accident, unknown injuries, Seashore Avenue: loud party, no address; vehicle complaint, no address; vehicle complaint, no address, EMS call, illness, Meridian Street.

July 6: Burglary, residential, Island Avenue: persons bothering, Island Avenue: drinking in public, no address.

July 10: EMS call, still, no address.

July 13: Investigation, no address, burglars, no address.

July 10: Well-being check, Central Avenue: EMS call, parents, Island Avenue.

July 11: EMS call, still, Sterling Street.

July 12: Motor vehicle stop, Island Avenue: pedestrian check, Greenwood Street: EMS call, faintness, dizziness, no address.

July 13: Loud party, no address; animal complaint, Lower A Street; recovered stolen property, no address; EMS call, public assistance, no address.

July 14: Persons bothering, no address; EMS call, fall, Meridian Street.

July 15: Loud party, no address; parking complaints, no address; persons bothering, no address.

July 16: Fight, Upper A Street: assist Fire Department, Upper A Street.

July 17: General disturbance, Upper A Street: loud music, Welch Street: EMS call, bleeding, Park Avenue.

July 18: Suspicious activity, no address; EMS call, Illness, Pleasant Avenue: EMS call, still, no address.

July 18: Well-being check, Island Avenue: call for service, still smoke outside, Crescent Street.

July 20: Intoxicated person, Welch Street: EMS call, fall, no address; EMS call, still, still, public assistance, no address.

July 21: Well-being check, Maple Street: EMS call, parents, no address; EMS call, still, no address; EMS call, still, Brackett Avenue.

July 22: Civil complaint, Oakland Street: fireworks, no address; EMS call, still, Oakland Avenue.

July 23: Assist citizen, Seashore Avenue: suspicious activity, Housey Road.

July 26: Accident, Police Department only; no address: following, no address; attempt to locate, Upper A Street: follow-up, Upper A Street; general disturbance, Welch Street: Loud music, Welch Street: EMS call, unknown medical, Crescent Avenue: EMS call, breathing problems, no address.

July 26: Burglary, residential, no address; theft: No address: suspicious activity, no address.

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- Portland Transportation Center
- Casco Bay Lines
- DiMillo's
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July 2, Wednesday is Lobster Night 5-8pm
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Freight facts

BY DAVID TILLEY

What would you do if you got on a Casco Bay Lines ferry with a giant fruit basket? It's one of the more unusual items shipped as freight, according to Gary Crossley, the operations agent for Casco Bay Lines.

The bus took a trip out to Cliff Island as part of a program the nature education group, the Chewspen Foundation of Wiscasset, held with children on the island. Fortunately, the bus was not traveling alone and was accompanied by a foundation employee.

Normally the freight handled by the ferry company is much more prosaic: deer tanks to go to zoos or home appliances, almost everything taken out to the islands has to go through the ferry area at the Casco Bay Lines terminal.

"I like to say that every window, every door, every piece of every cottage has gone out on Casco Bay Lines over the years," said Crossley.

And it's a challenge for ferry employees because Casco Bay Lines is one of the few ferries in Maine that has to balance freight and people. All the ferries run by the state of Maine for islands down the coast carry both automobiles, trucks and people. "Most of their freight goes on trucks, they don't have to deal with pulling carts and all that stuff," Crossley said.

The biggest challenge Casco Bay Lines faces with freight in the summer is logistical. "Not only do we have to get the boat loaded, but we have to get the boat back in time," Crossley said. "It's a juggling act."

All six operation agents handle freight, Crossley said. Rob Anderson, Larry Legere, Norma Stout, Renee Watson and Deborah Webster, and Crossley himself. This summer there are also five seasonal employees who work with freight, including two Peaks Island residents, Megan Cowley and Cary Baker.

The biggest item Crossley remembers handling was a whirlhouse that was made in the Johnstone Houseyard on Long Island. "It was so big, we had to take the gate off the back, and it actually hung off the back of the boat by about eight feet," Crossley said.

All of the freight loads carried on the ferries, probably the most unpleasant is full Port-A-Potties. "They can be not the most pleasant things coming back," Crossley said. Port-Potties are made to ride in the back of ferries. "We usually try to pick them up at night," he said.

Freight Rates for Peaks

| Groceries, bagged/boxed | $3.90 per box |
| Personal effect, minimum per unit | $1.15 |
| Tools, hand power | $2.95 |
| Appliances, small household | $3.50 |
| Trees/shrubs, minimum per unit | $3.50 |
| Furniture (penny time, 0-50 pounds) | $1.25 |
| Paint (gallon) | $1.20 |
| Flowers/floral arrangements | $4.50 |
| Bicycles, stay-trip | $5 |
| Tires, 100 to 125 | $3.15 |
| Wine, per case | $2.35 |
| Beef, cheese per case | $1.95 |
| Water, per case | $1.15 |
| Golf cart | $10.00 |
| Refrigerator, minimum | $7.75 |
| Kayak | $10.00 |

Star Gazing

BY MICHAEL RICHARDS

August is named for Caesar Augustus, first Roman emperor, born Gaius Octavius in 63 B.C., died August 19, 14 A.D. At 18 years old, he learned that his grand uncle Julius Caesar had been assassinated but had recently adopted him as son and appointed him his successor. In the civil war that followed, Augustus defeated Cassius, Brutus, Anthony and Cleopatra, expanded the Roman empire. Emperor. Established a Paris, Romaina, centralized power in Rome and allowed the act to flourish in the Golden Age.

At 5:51 a.m. EDT on August 27, Mars comes closer to Earth. 134,646-418 miles since 57.617 B.C. Mars' orbit is third most elliptical in the solar system (behind Pluto and Mercury), and the gravitational attraction of Jupiter and Earth is increasing its eccentricity.

This month Earth is near aphelion (furthest from the Sun), and Mars is at perihelion (closest to the Sun) and opposition, bringing it closest to Earth. Mars is now below the celestial equator, so at our latitude Mars appears low in the sky, subjecting our telescopic views to Earth's distorting heat waves, Mars' south pole is tilted toward us, exposing a shrinking white polar cap of dry ice.

It is one-half the size of Earth, with one-tenth the mass and one-third the gravity, and one-hundredth the atmospheric pressure. It rotates every 24.5 hours, and is inclined 25.2 degrees, both nearly identical to Earth's. It orbits in 687 days, but its eccentric orbit means that it sometimes appears far away, and other times far, far away. From its orbit it will be seen at 25 percent of its mean diameter.

This occasionally spawns huge dust storms that can last for months and cover most of the planet. Mars has the highest mountain in the solar system. Olympos Mons is 15 miles high, three times higher than Everest. It also has the biggest crater system. Valles Marineris is 4,200 miles long and 4 miles deep, dwarfing our Grand Canyon. Mars has two small moons. Phobos (Fear) is 20 miles wide and orbits every 7 hours at 20,000 miles per hour, Deimos (Fear) is 10 miles wide, its orbit is 30 hours at 15,000 miles away. Mars' surface shows signs of erosion, but whose did the water go?

August 1: Sunrise at 5:29 a.m. and sunset at 8:04 p.m. The Moon is waxing crescent, rising at 9 a.m., setting at 10:15 p.m. Mars rises in the southeast around 10 p.m.

August 4: Neptune has opposition tonight in Capricorn, high overhead at midnight.

August 5: First quarter moon rises at 1:59 p.m. and sets at 1:56 p.m.

August 6: International Space Station rises in the west-northwest and crosses nearly overhead from 8:39 to 4:45 p.m. The Moon is in perigee (closest) tonight, waxing gibbous in Scorpio near its lowest left, red giant star Antares to its right, Delta Scorpia, a huge, hot, fast-spining variable star, brightening now as it moves away from its equator.

August 12: Full "Green Corn" moon rises 8:39 p.m. and sets at 5:46 a.m. with Mars to its left.

August 15: Perseid meteor shower peaks tonight (about one meteor per minute), but the moonlight washes it out. Look for Mars to the right of the Perseids.

August 18: Last quarter moon rises 11:10 p.m. and sets at 1:26 p.m.

August 29: In opposition tonight in Aquarius, northwest of Mars. Saturn rises just below the waning crescent Moon before 4 a.m.

August 27: New moon tugs on no moon to help Mars this morning, closest to Earth at 5:51 a.m. low in the west-southwest. Sun rises at 5:30 a.m. so get up and eat early, though those on the early boat may still see Mars hanging out over South Portland. Tonight, Mars is up in the east by 6 p.m. If you do see, turn your binoculars south and check out the center of our Milky Way galaxy.
A taste of Peaks

Island Lions perfect the art of the Maine clambake

BY LISA GOELL SINICKI

Clambake for 307 is sweet for the Peaks Island Lions’ Club! While most of its income around all summer, the Lions work their tails off—serving up about 3,000 lobsters, steak and chicken dinners over the course of the summer. The Lions have been hosting clambakes for about 30 years. Money from the clambakes funds the Lions’ activities, including its support of island causes such as the children’s center, the health center, and its annual scholarship fund that awards $1,000 to each college-bound, year-round resident graduating from high school. The amazing thing is the Lions accomplish all this with just 30 members.

I visited with the Lions on a sunny July day when they were hosting a clambake for about 140 seniors from Yarmouth, Falmouth and Gorham. This has become an annual event for these seniors, who have returned each year for the last decade.

The Lions on hand included John Fenney, Sherman Consery, Dick Swarts, Hugh Barkley, Al Baldy, Steve Richard, Dan Murphy, and George Bowd. After filling me in on some Island and Lions Club history, the group shared some of the details of their clambake operation while enjoying their customary pre-event meal prepared by Dick Swarts. “A hungry team doesn’t operate very well,” they explain. It turns out the Lions’ fame extends far beyond Peaks Island. Two years ago the Food Channel came out to Peaks Island, observed the team in action and filmed a segment that was broadcasted throughout 2002.

The group proudly points out the small building that holds the kitchen, and the shade structure that shelters some of the picnic tables, all of which they built themselves. Even the signs were painted by Fenney, whose father was a sign painter. They give me a tour of their operation, which is amazingly straightforward and efficient.

The Lions can serve parties of up to 400 people with meals that can include lobster, clams, steak, chicken and vegetarian and children’s meals. The operation has been streamlined to the point that even a party this large can be served in about 30 minutes. The Lions’ record is 3 clambakes in one day—one at noon, one at 5pm and another later in the evening.

Steaks and chickens are prepared on a giant homemade propane-flamed grill while clams steam in a stockpot the size of a garbage can. The most interesting piece of equipment is the Lions’ lobster smoker. Constructed from stacked two-by-fours, the 12-foot long smoker resembles a giant lobster aquarium and can steam about 300 lobsters at one time.

I make the mistake of inquiring whether the lobsters suffer at all before they die in the steamer. The Lions must have been asked the same question 1,000 times, because they have an answer ready. “We don’t cook the lobsters,” Fenney says. “We boil them.”

Now, I put my foot in my mouth by asking, “What is the best way to boil lobsters at home?”

“Oh no, you don’t boil lobsters,” respond the Lions obviously appalled by my question.

“Is that because it makes them tough?” I ask.

“Boiling just takes so long,” they explain. “And it kills the lobsters with water.”

“In that case?” I ask hoping for aplet.

But all I get from the team is the final verdict: “You don’t boil lobsters!”

As the seniors arrive, I’m assigned a spot by the steak and chicken grill. It’s my job to add a roll, coleslaw and a boiled potato to the tray of each guest. I’m amazed how fast the process goes. Within 20 minutes all of the guests are sitting down eating.

During the meal I speak to Judy from Gorham. She says this is her second trip to a clambake on Peak. She enjoyed her visit so much last year, that this year she brought along three of her friends.

For more information, call the Peaks Island Lions at 766-2100.

Peaks Island Lions’ Perfect Steamed Lobster

1. Select a large pot wide enough to hold all of your lobsters. Place the pot on the stove and add about two inches of water. If possible, add a rack to the bottom of the pot so the lobsters will sit above the water.
2. Turn the stove to high, put the lid on the pot and bring the water to a rapid boil.
3. When the water is boiling, remove the lid, quickly add the lobsters and replace the lid.
4. From the time the water returns to a boil, it will take between 9-20 minutes to steam your lobsters, depending on how full the pot is. When the antennae pull out easily, the lobsters are done.

If you overcook the lobsters, just return them to the pot fora few minutes.

John Fenney steams lobsters at a clambake hosted by the Peaks Island Lions Club.

Photo by Lisa Goell Sinicki
Portland veterinarian makes island calls

By Mary Lou Wendell

When John Flood goes modest with his veterinary practice in Portland, he thinks up something unusual to do to lives things up a bit. And what gets is excited every year also being a big benefit to the community.

He set up a clinic for low-income fami-

lies at his Brackett Street Veterinary practice. Most recently, he bought a boat and created the Island Veterinary Service, which brings his services right to docks on islands like Peaks and others in Casco Bay and down the Maine coast.

Last month, he began making dock calls to Peaks and other Casco Bay islands and so far it has been well-received. Kathie Schneider, who lives on Peaks, recently brought her newly adopted pug mix, Canso, on board for a check-up and shots. Schneider also has three cats, including one named Bertha, that she plans to bring to Flood on board his new boat, the Biltis Joan. Schneider likes not having to bring her pets into town on the ferry for routine exams.

"This is ideal because poor Bertha, she just freaks out on the boat," Schneider said.

Flood sees the Biltis Joan, a 36-foot Albatross named after his mother, to provide routine services, including vaccinations, shots. The Biltis Joan also has a small surgery and lab aboard, making it possible for him to do dock visits and procedures like neutering.

"We just started a few weeks ago," Flood said recently just before seeing his first patient while docked next to the ferry landing on Peaks. "It’s fun. Everyone likes it. A lot of people have been coming down due to the center access.

Flood’s Brackett Street practice is the only veterinary practice on the peninsula of Portland. "We've seen a lot of people from the islands, walking or taking cats," Flood said. "And we talked with them and thought it would be a nice idea. And it looked like fun."

Flood, who travels with two assistants, says he will also provide islanders a hand with feral cats, examining them, neutering and spaying them if necessary. Islanders must catch them and after they have been examined are expected to release them back to their colony.

Flood has practiced small animal medicine in England, Canada, and the U.S. Before opening the Brackett Street Veterinary Clinic nearly 4 years ago he practiced in Acton, Maine.

The Island Veterinary Service operates on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s and Saturdays. Flood will also make house calls on the islands by appointment. All fees are the same in his regular clinic low, except for house calls. For more information, call 772-3383.

Community Notes

The Frederick family and friends sell- ing lemonade to raise money for a dia-

betes research. (Front) Kyle Frederick. (Back) Jennifer Frederick, her grand-

mother Marriet Clark and Emma War-

nen.

Family fundraiser

Amy Frederick wishes to thank all those who supported her fundraiser for the Ju-

dice Diabetes Research Foundation. Her family and friends sold Gatorade and sprin-

t water on the weekend of July 6th and raised $50 for the foundation over two days. Fred-

wick’s daughter, Jennifer, has had type 1 di-
abetes since she was 2 years old. She is now on an insulin pump and will not outgrow the disease so her only hope is for a cure. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to the foundation.

Waterfront meeting

The meeting of PINA Waterfront and Transportation committee will be on Tues., Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Peaks Island Community Center. Call Charles Endres, 764-5207, for more information.

PINA annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association will be held on Tues., Aug. 19 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Peaks Island Community Center. Learn about the activities of the neighborhood as-

sociation during the past year and help de-

cide on the neighborhood association’s pri-

orities for the coming year. As a result of the election of candidates to the PISA Steering Committee will also occur. There will also be a discussion on the transportation challenges of the City of Port-

land zoning code for the IR-2 zone that cov-

ers most of the traditional built-up western part of Peaks Island. For information, call Charles Endres, 764-2202.

Library annual meeting

"Now on the Shelf," a panel presentation by recently published Peaks Island author, will be the program for the Friends of the Peaks Island Library Annual Meeting, Thurs-

day, Aug. 21, 7:30 PM in the Community Room. The program is open to all islanders and visitors; membership in the Friends of the Library is not required. The panel’s work is varied: Don Young has published a book of poetry; Walter Schreiber wrote a history of the Hallett School's first 160 years; James Hayman wrote the "unfinished story" of the Rockingham group; and Eric Eston has a book about designing Web site interfaces. These books are on the Peaks Island: hooters and illustrators Shelf at the library and can be checked out for one week. Also, on the pane-

l are writing contest winners Eileen Han-

ley and Ocean Schiffl. Buxton, who will read their work. Officers and board members for 2003-2005 will be elected at a brief business meeting and refreshments will be served.

Summer concert series

The final two programs in the Peaks Island Music Association’s 2003 Summer Concert Series at the Fifth Maine Museum are sched-

uled for Aug. 6 and Aug. 20. The program on Wednesday, Aug. 6 will feature musicians from Maine who have won music competitions. In the past, these concerts have intro-

duced to the island some very exciting tal-

ents. At this concert, the music association will also award this year’s Barbara Goedman Music Scholarship to a deserving young Peaks Islander. At the Aug. 20 concert, the Peaks Island Chorale, directed by Faith York, will present, “Song of the Waves,” a program of music on the theme of water—most ap-

propriate in the Fifth Maine setting. Con-

certs begin at 8 p.m. Suggested minimum donation is $4.

Prom plan meeting

There will be a meeting of the Eastern Promenade Park Master Plan Committee on Mon., Aug. 25 from 7-9 p.m. in the rehearsal hall of Merrill Auditorium, at City Hall. There will be a presentation of the plan, including priorities for the park, including costs. Pub-
lic comments will be taken.

Astronomy class

Mike Richards will be giving an astronomy class at the Peaks Island Elementary School on four successive Wednesday evenings from 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. beginning Sept. 10. For details and sign-up, call Wendy Cenni at Portland Adult Education at 874-4141.

Soccer kids needed

The Peaks Island youth soccer teams need children to sign up, or there will not be teams on the island, according to Carol Eisenberg, a team coach. The two teams are the under 6 team (for kids who will be 6 or 7 years old on Aug. 1, 2003) and the under-10 team (for kids who will be 8 or 9 on Aug. 1, 2003). Please contact the Portland area Youth Soccer Association immediately to sign up at payson@maine.rr.com or 772-9720.

Sustainable living

The Greater Portland Neighborhood Co-

operation presents Sustainable Living: Neigh-

bors Working Together. A Statewide Confer-

cence Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland. Ad-

vance purchase: $25.00. For more informa-

tion, call Greater Portland Council of Gov-

ernments at 774-9891.